solvents can. Thus no sintering is needed and the chromatographic particles stay inside the column. Whereas, in the Valaskovic column, the packing material has to be sintered to prevent it from flowing out. Our device is clearly different from his where we first take a column or tube with one closed end and fill it with chromatographic particle and then make a very small slit whose width is smaller than the size of chromatographic particles so that the material is not lost during sample preparation. and the solution can flow freely through the pipette tip.

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview on 01/24/02 and a prompt response.

No new matter has been added and a withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me. (Tel 410 997 0301)

Thanking you in advance for all your cooperation.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up version

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. (amended) A pipette tip for sample preparation, which contains [a] chromatography [or separation material] particles and has an open upper end and a closed lower end and has one or more perforations [or incisions] at the said lower end to permit the [selective] passage of [smaller particles or] fluids through said perforations [or incisions] while retaining [larger] chromatographic particles in the said pipette tip.

2. (amended)A pipette tip, as in claim 1, wherein said pipette tip is a holding unit is selected from the group consisting of a tube, a housing, a column, and a vial.

3. (DELETED) [A pipette tip, as in claims 1 or 2, wherein said pipette tip is of any shape or size.]

4. (amended)A pipette tip, as in claim 1, wherein multiple units of said pipette tip are joined together. [in any type of configuration including but not limited to 2-unit, 8-unit, 48-unit, 96-unit, 384-unit or 1536-unit formats.]

5. (DELETED) A pipette tip, as in claim 1, wherein said upper end and said lower end are closed or open ends.

6. (DELETED) [A pipette tip, as in claim 1, wherein said pipette tip does not contain a chromatography or separation material.]

7. (amended) A pipette tip, as in claim 1, wherein said pipette tip is made of [one or more] materials selected from the group consisting of [but not limited to] polytetrafluoroethylene, polysulfone, polyethersulfone, polypropylene, polyethylene, fluoropolymers, cellulose acetate, polystyrene, polystyrene/acrylonitrile copolymer, PVDF, [and] glass, and combination thereof.

8. A pipette tip as in claim 1, wherein the volume of said pipette tip is between 0.00001 and 100 milliliters.

9. (Twice amended) A pipette tip as in claim 1, wherein one or more of said perforations [or incisions] are made at the bottom of or on the lateral sides of said pipette tip.

10. (Twice amended) A pipette tip as in claim 1, wherein said perforations [or incisions] include one or more selected from the group consisting of cracks, slits, cuts, holes, incisions [and] orifices, and combination thereof.

11. (Twice amended) A pipette tip as in claims 1 [or 10], wherein the method to make said perforations [or incisions] is a chemical or physical method selected

from the group consisting of cutting with a knife, blade, or laser beam, applying heat or pressure, using chemical reactions, [or using any other methods that can be used to perforate, cut or crack the said pipette tip to permit the selective passage of particles or through said perforations or incisions] and combination thereof.

12. (DELETED) [A pipette tip [Perforations or incisions] as in claims 1 or 10, wherein said perforations or incisions are made during the molding process through which said pipette tip is formed.]

13. (amended) A pipette tip as in claim 1, wherein said pipette tip contains a chromatographic or separation material which can be in a form from the group consisting of particle, powder, sheet, woven, [and] non-woven, and combination thereof. [or in any other physical configuration suited to the design of said pipette tip and the experimental conditions].

14. (Twice amended) A pipette tip as in claim [13] 1, wherein said chromatographic [or separation material] particles is selected from the group consisting of one type of material, [or] a mixture of different sizes of particles, [or] different types of materials, [such as a mix of cation and anion exchange materials] and combination thereof.

15. (Twice amended) A pipette tip as in claim [13] 1, wherein said chromatography [or separation material] particles is selected [of] from the group consisting of chromatographic silica, polystyrene, carbon, polymers,

media, gels, [bacteria, living cells,] solid powders, [or any other] media used for the purposes of sample filtration, separation or purification.

16. (Twice amended) A pipette tip as in claim 1 [13], wherein said chromatography [or separation material] particles can be chemically or physically modified to alter the nature of the separation process.

17. (DELETED) [A pipette tip which contains a chromatography or separation material and has an upper end and a lower end and has one or more perforations or incisions to permit the selective passage of smaller particles or fluids through said perforations or incisions while retaining larger particles in the tip during a sample separation process.]

18. DELETED[A Pipette tip [A sample separation process] as in claim 17, wherein said sample separation process can consist of any method used to separate, filter or purify molecules or particles, through centrifugation, gravitation, vacuum suction, pressure application, syringe-based sample delivery through said pipette tip, or any other applicable methods.]

19. (DELETED) [A pipette tip [A sample separation process] as in claim 17, wherein said sample separation process is performed for applications from the group consisting of high throughput screening, purification of proteins, peptides, DNA and other bio-molecules, size-based separation of molecules, chemical properties based

separation of sample components, and, physical properties based separation of sample components.]

20. (amended)A pipette tip as in claim 1 wherein said pipette tip is combined with a piston [or similar device] designed to pull the sample into said pipette tip or push said sample out of said pipette tip.